

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 732

By Carr D

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Atchley.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective well-being, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, James “Chief” Atchley, former volunteer firefighter, was one such outstanding public servant, and the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of his death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atchley became a volunteer firefighter in 1954, served as the chief of the Sevierville-Sevier County Volunteer Fire Department from 1957 to 1993, and became the first paid Fire Chief for the City of Sevierville Fire Department in 1986; and

WHEREAS, always striving to serve his community, James Atchley was recognized with the first ever Sevierville Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award in 1984; and

WHEREAS, during his firefighting career, Mr. Atchley owned Jim Atchley Exxon and car wash and served as the funeral director of Atchley Funeral Home; he would regularly shut down his business in order to respond to a fire; and

WHEREAS, a man of faith, Mr. Atchley was a member of First Baptist Church of Sevierville where he was a lifetime deacon and the chairman of the parking lot committee; and

WHEREAS, James Atchley was preceded in death by parents, Charles and Ida Atchley; brother, Charles Atchley; brothers-in-law, Dwight Smith and Dick Bottjer; and sister-in-law, Mary Ruth Chambers McHaffie; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atchley will be dearly missed by his wife, Billie Catlett Atchley; sisters, Sarah Smith and Betty Bottjer; brother-in-law, Reece Catlett and his wife, Maudella; nieces, Lori Ortega and Ann Murr and her husband, Danny; nephews, Ricky Smith, Henry Bottjer, and Rich Bottjer and his wife, Lynn; great-niece, Rachael Ortega; great-nephew, Brian Murr and his wife, Theresa; great-great-nephew, Ben Murr; and great-great-nieces, Jessica Murr and Emma Murr; and

WHEREAS, friends and colleagues remember James Atchley as a “servant leader” and as “a man who gave his life to his family, his church, and his community”; and

WHEREAS, James Atchley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James Atchley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, dedication to public service, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Atchley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.